Columbia University
in the City of New York
[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

DEPARTMENT OF ZOÖLOGY

March 5, 1953

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Although Milanese experiements parallel Wisconsin
experiments, we seem to be having some difficulty in New
York. We have a pressing need for a minimal sugar indica-
tor medium. Although Lilian's old records showed no success
with EMS, I set out full of the confidence born of experi-
ence to prepare some, only to be met with the same result;
extremely sparce growth after three days, and no darkening
of the positive fermenters. The most suspect ingredient, I
believe, is the eosin. I seem to remember mention of the fact
that there had once been some trouble with it. I wonder if
you would send us a sample of the dye you are using, its brand
and control number, and help restore general confidence in
Wisconsin methods.

Also, this lab is equipped with paleozoic stocks of
K12. (Would you say that there was the evolutionary equivi-
lent of several million years between Y53 and 1177F/?) There
are not enough markers, it seems to me, to afford a striking
demonstration of segregation and linkage to the students in
Ryan's course. Could you send us 1177 or whatever stock now
contains the most useful markers in both the F- and F/ condi-
tion? I personally want the latter to test strain ML which
we are using. It would be extremely helpful to be able to
test for the allelism of some of our markers. Or did you
retest ML with an F/?

Things are working out very well for me here. I
enjoy the work and the people with whom I work. The job offers
that balance between initiative and supervision for which
I was looking. Although the slant here is quantitative, I
find my Wisconsin background to be a broader and firmer
base from which to approach these new problems than I had
expected. I guess the old platitude about needing distance
for proper perspective and assessment is true.

Many thanks for the reprints. Please send my
fondest regards to Mrs. Lederberg, the Scars, Morses and
any of the old crew that is still around.

Roy Ellis